

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 12, and 14 – 26 are hereby presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. By this response and amendment, claims 1, 20, and 24 – 26 are amended, and claim 13 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, the examiner: objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a); rejected claims 1 – 3, 5 – 17, and 20 – 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,157,871 to Gawa et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Gawa”); and rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,005 to Horikawa et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Horikawa”).

By this Response and Amendment, claims 1, 20, and 24 – 26 are amended and, as amended, the anticipation and obviousness rejections of claims 1 – 3, 5 – 12, and 14 – 26 are traversed.

The rejection of claim 13 and the objection to the drawings have been obviated by the cancellation of claim 13.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter to this application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 20, and 24 – 26 may be found, *inter alia*, at paragraph 0035 of the application as published, in FIG. 2, and particularly in FIG. 3, which shows a motor 124 having rotor- and stator-parts 124A and 124B located inside and attached to the inner drum 114B.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

In the Outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show the configuration recited in claim 13.

RESPONSE

By this response and amendment, Applicants have cancelled claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer, in order to obviate the associated drawing objection. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original scope of claim 13 in one or more continuing applications.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 3, 5 – 17, and 20 – 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gawa.

RESPONSE

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

For a reference to anticipate an invention, all of the elements of that invention must be present in the reference. The test for anticipation under section 102 is whether each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987);

MPEP §2131. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989); MPEP §2131.

By this Response and Amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection since the cited prior art does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the features of independent claims 1, 24, 25, or 26 as amended.

Independent claim 1 teaches a "system for controlling a movement of an article" comprising, *inter alia*, "a support stage assembly" and a "spring suspension arrangement mounted on said support stage assembly and comprising first and second assemblies arranged in a coaxial relationship with respect to the axis of the article movement." After the above amendments, claim 1 also positively recites a "*motor operable for rotating said support stage assembly around said axis, said motor being located inside the inner one of said first and second assemblies.*" (Present Application, Claim 1, emphasis added).

Independent claim 20 teaches a "system for controlling movement of an article along at least a vertical axis and rotational movement of the article." The system comprises *inter alia* a "support stage assembly" and a "spring suspension arrangement mounted on said support stage assembly and comprising first and second vertically oriented cylindrical assemblies arranged in a coaxial relationship one inside the other." After the above amendments, claim 20 also positively recites a "*motor operable for rotating the support stage assembly, said motor being located inside said inner assembly.*" (Present Application, Claim 20, emphasis added).

Independent claim 24 teaches a "system for controlling movement of an article along at least a vertical axis." The system comprises, *inter alia*, a "support stage assembly" and a "spring

suspension arrangement mounted on said support stage assembly and comprising first and second vertically oriented cylindrical assemblies arranged in a coaxial relationship one inside the other.”

After the above amendments, claim 24 also positively recites a “*motor operable for rotating the support stage assembly, said motor being located inside said inner cylindrical assembly.*”

(Present Application, Claim 24, emphasis added).

Independent claim 25 teaches an “R-Theta-Z system for controlling movement of an article along the Z-axis and in a horizontal plane.” The system comprises, *inter alia*, a “support stage assembly driven for movement along a horizontal axis” and a “spring suspension arrangement mounted on said support stage assembly and comprising first and second vertically oriented cylindrical assemblies arranged in a coaxial relationship one inside the other.” After the above amendments, claim 25 also positively recites a “*motor operable for rotating the support stage assembly in the horizontal plane, said motor being located inside said inner assembly.*”

Independent claim 26 teaches an “X-Y-Theta-Z system for controlling movement of an article along the Z-axis and in the horizontal X-Y-plane.” The system comprises, *inter alia*, a “support stage assembly driven for movement along X-and Y-axes” and “spring suspension arrangement mounted on said support stage assembly and comprising first and second vertically oriented cylindrical assemblies arranged in a coaxial relationship one inside the other.” After the above amendments, claim 26 also positively recites a “*motor operable for rotating the support stage assembly in the horizontal X-Y-plane, said motor being located inside said inner assembly.*”

Thus, each of claims 1, 20, and 24 – 26 has been amended to recite a “motor...located inside” the inner of two coaxial assemblies, and operable for rotating the support stage assembly.

Gawa is drawn to a spindle assembly for use in a lens polisher. As identified by the Examiner, the spindle has a head cover 34, a first assembly 37, and a number of assemblies coaxial thereto (30, 35, 40, and 48).

However, Gawa does not disclose, teach, or suggest a “motor...located inside” the inner of two coaxial assemblies, and operable for rotating the support stage assembly. Gawa does not disclose a motor at all, and thus does not anticipate the present claims.

Moreover, Applicants submit that it would not be obvious to add an interior motor to Gawa. Gawa does not disclose any mechanism by which an interior motor, even if added to Gawa, would be operable to rotate the head cover (equated by the Examiner with the presently claimed support stage) from the inside, while remaining attached to an inner assembly. Gawa teaches away from the placement of a motor inside the assembly, not only by the size of the assembly, but also at col. 4 lines 53 – 64, where a timing pulley 45 outside of the assembly is used to rotate the head cover 34, which in turn rotates all of elements 36, 38, 48, 30, 35, 32, 37, 39, 40, 44, 41, and 42, many of which have been equated by the Examiner to the presently claimed first and second assemblies. Thus the timing pulley rotates not only the head cover 34 but also both the inner and outer assemblies, in contradistinction to the presently claimed arrangement.

Applicants note that the presently claimed configurations have distinct advantages unrealized in Gawa, such as reducing the dimensions of the system at least along a vertical axis, which can be highly advantageous in integrated systems, where space is at a premium.

Thus, at least for the reason that Gawa fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a “motor...located inside” the inner of two coaxial assemblies, and operable for rotating the support stage assembly, applicants submit that Gawa does not anticipate independent, amended claims 1, 20, 24, 25, and 26.

Applicants further submit that claims 2, 3, 5 – 12, 14 – 17, and 21 – 23 are allowable at least for their dependence from allowable claims 1 and 20.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 20, 24, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102, and the rejections of claims 2, 3, 5 – 12, 14 – 17, and 21 – 23 dependent therefrom, are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gawa in view of Horikawa.

RESPONSE

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must establish: (1) that some suggestion or motivation to modify the references exists; (2) a reasonable expectation of success; and (3) that the prior art references teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. *Amgen, Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Fine*, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

By this Response and Amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection since the cited prior art does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1, from which claims 18 and 19 depend.

The above arguments with respect to claim 1 and Gawa are incorporated in this section by reference in their entirety.

Horikawa is drawn to a stage apparatus comprising a support device for supporting a table, and a drive device for driving the table in the Z axis. (Horikawa, abstract).

Horikawa therefore fails to cure the deficiencies of Gawa, as it too does not disclose, teach, or suggest a "motor...located inside" the inner of two coaxial assemblies, and operable for rotating the support stage assembly. As seen in Horikawa Figs. 2 and 3, drive motors 30, 31 are positioned outside of the support device, and voice coil motors 34 d,e,f are positioned outside of any assembly. Moreover, none of these motors are operable to rotate the assembly.

As the combination of Gawa and Horikawa thus fails to disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of claim 1, and thus of claims 18 and 19 dependent therefrom, Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

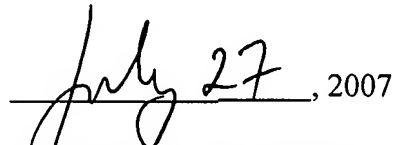
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 to claims 18 and 19 are respectfully requested.

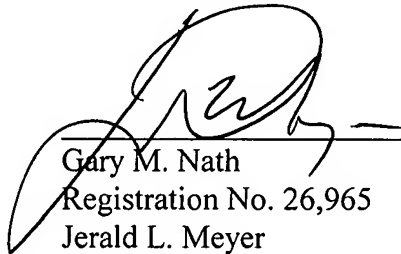
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants

respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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